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REGIO
in the North-East Region of Romania

Regio
REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME NORTH-EAST

Local initiative. Regional development.

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Strategic objective:

supporting the economic, social, territorially balanced and sustainable development of the Romanian Regions, according to their specific needs and resources, focusing on urban growth poles, improving the business environment and basic infrastructure, in order to make the Romanian Regions, especially the ones lagging behind, more attractive places to live, visit, invest in and work.

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Particularities

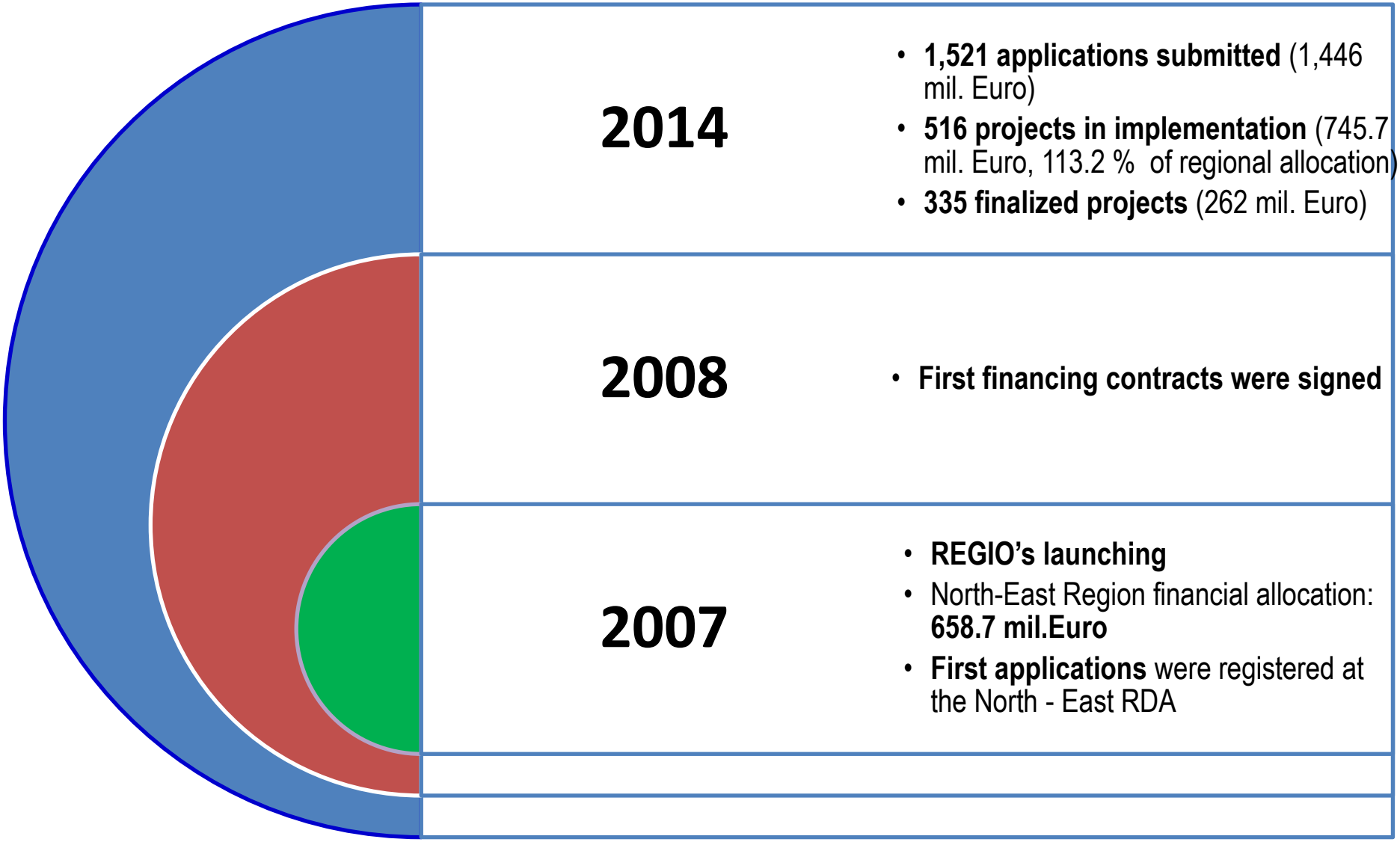
- REGIO is the main instrument for implementing the regional development policy
- Total budget: **4.456 billion Euro** of which **3.867 billion Euro** are Community assistance
- Financing sources: **85% ERDF** and **15% national public funds**
- **Target groups**: local public authorities, health and social services providers, public education units, SMEs, religious entities, NGOs.
- 68 % of REGIO's financing opportunities are dedicated to **public institutions**
- REGIO is implemented at national level, in all 8 development regions of Romania by **Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration** (Managing Authority) and **Regional Development Agencies** (Intermediate Bodies)

Indicative allocation – national level

Priority Axis	Total funding (EURO)
Priority Axis 1 Support to sustainable development of urban growth poles	1,410.22 million
Priority Axis 2 Improvement of regional and local transport infrastructure	933.08 million
Priority Axis 3 Improvement of social infrastructure	847.16 million
Priority Axis 4 Strengthening the regional and local business environment	561.68 million
Priority Axis 5 Sustainable development and promotion of tourism	703.47 million
TOTAL (without TA)	**4,455.61 million**

Indicative allocation - North – East Region

Priority Axis	Key Areas of Interventions	The indicative allocation (mil. Euro)
Priority Axis 1 Support to sustainable development of urban growth poles	1.1 Integrated urban development plans	**215.85**
	1.2 Support investments in energy efficiency of buildings	**14.30**
Priority Axis 2 Improvement of regional and local transport infrastructure	2.1 Rehabilitation and modernization of the county roads and urban streets network – including construction/rehabilitation of ring roads	**152.28**
Priority Axis 3 Improvement of social infrastructure	3.1 Rehabilitation, modernization and equipping of the health services' infrastructure	**30.92**
	3.2 Rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipping of social services infrastructure	**15.44**
	3.3 Improving the equipment of the operational units for public safety interventions in emergency situations	**20.70**
	3.4 Rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipping of pre–university, university education and continuous vocational training infrastructure66.18	**66.18**
Priority Axis 4 Strengthening the regional and local business environment	4.1 Development of sustainable business support structures of regional and local importance	**37.13**
	4.2 Rehabilitation of unused polluted industrial sites and preparation for new activities	**0**
	4.3 Support the development of micro-enterprises41.95	**41.95**
Priority Axis 5 Sustainable development and promotion of tourism	5.1 Restoration and sustainable valorization of cultural heritage, setting up and modernization of related infrastructure	**68.19**
	5.2 Creation, development, modernization of the tourism infrastructure for sustainable valorization of natural resources and for increasing the quality of tourism services	**41.03**
	5.3 Promoting touristic potential	**22.53**
TOTAL		**726.50**


2014
• 1,521 applications submitted (1,446 mil. Euro)
• 516 projects in implementation (745.7 mil. Euro, 113.2 % of regional allocation)
• 335 finalized projects (262 mil. Euro)
2008
• First financing contracts were signed
2007
• REGIO's launching
• North-East Region financial allocation: 658.7 mil.Euro
• First applications were registered at the North - East RDA

PA1 Support to sustainable development of urban growth poles

Indicator	Target value of regional indicator	Regional indicator achieved (items)	Regional indicator achieved (%)
Integrated Urban Development Plans (IUDP) accepted	5	18 IUDP	360 %
Inhabitants benefiting from the implementation of projects within integrated urban development plans	64.160	363.154 inhabitants	566 %
Projects ensuring the improvement of the urban infrastructure and urban services, including urban transport	10	10 projects	100 %
Projects ensuring the rehabilitation of social infrastructure, including social housing and improvement of social services	4	11 projects	275 %
Projects ensuring energy efficiency buildings rehabilitated		4 projects	

PA 2 Improvement of regional and local transport infrastructure

Indicator	Target value of regional indicator	Regional indicator achieved (items)	Regional indicator achieved (%)
Length of modernized county road	140,7 km	**361,4 km**	**256 %**
Length of modernized urban streets	65,9 km	**38,7 km**	**59 %**

PA 3 Improvement of social infrastructure

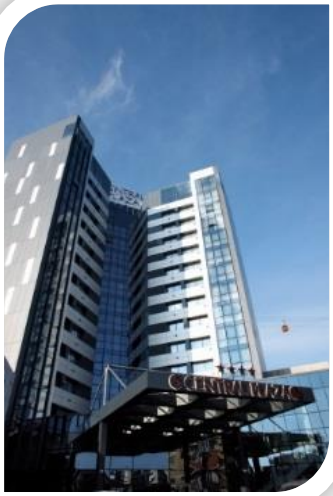
Indicator	Target value of regional indicator	Regional indicator achieved (items)	Regional indicator achieved (%)
Modernized and equipped health care units	9	13 integrated patient - whose services benefit more than 470,000 patients	144 %
Modernized and equipped social services infrastructure	43	37 social centres – which host over 7,300 children and adults from disadvantaged groups	86 %
Mobile units equipped for emergency interventions	82	117 mobile units	143 %
Modernized equipped educational units – pre- university education infrastructure	21	17 schools - in which over 5,000 students are studying	81 %

PA 4 Strengthening the regional and local business environment

Indicator	Target value of regional indicator	Regional indicator achieved (items)	Regional indicator achieved (%)
Business support structures assisted	3	**16 business support structures established**	**533 %**
Micro-enterprises supported	241	**240 micro-enterprises - that generated over 1000 new jobs**	**100 %**

PA 5 Sustainable development and promotion of tourism

Indicator	Target value of regional indicator	Regional indicator achieved (items)	Regional indicator achieved (%)
Monuments from cultural heritage rehabilitated	16	**20**	**125 %**
Modernized and equipped tourism infrastructure	48	**25 accommodation and leisure facilities – for over 99,000 tourists**	**52 %**



REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Priority Axis 1
- Support to sustainable development of urban poles

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 18 cities change their story through the implementation of The Integrated Urban Development Plans

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT: 137,274,251.36 €, of which 111,455,986.5 € grant

DESCRIPTION: 111 million nonrefundable Euros for the most spectacular transformation of a city in the North-East Region

TITLE: The Integrated Development Plan of the Municipality of Iasi, 10 projects

BENEFICIARY: Iasi Municipality

REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Priority Axis 2: Improvement of regional and local transport infrastructure

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 400 km of county roads and urban streets rehabilitated by REGIO

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT: 7,088,749.45 €, of which 5,667,129.54 € grant

DESCRIPTION: The first underground passage in The North East Region achieved through REGIO

TITLE: Oituz-Stefan Guse underground passage in Bacau

BENEFICIARY: Bacau Municipality

REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Key Area of Intervention 3.4 - Rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipping of pre-university, university education and continuous vocational training infrastructure

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 17 educational units upgraded by REGIO

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT: 15,886,000.63 €, of which 12,603,671.61 € grant

DESCRIPTION: One of the biggest students campuses from Romania, rehabilitated by REGIO

TITLE: Rehabilitation of "Tudor Vladimirescu" Campus
BENEFICIARY: Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" from Iasi

REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Key Area of Intervention 4.1 - Development of sustainable business support structures of regional and local importance

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 53 million EUR invested in 16 regional business support structures

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:
8,518,062.60 €,
of which 4,413,644.95 € grant

DESCRIPTION: Investments by REGIO for a more attractive business environment

TITLE: IDEO Business Center
BENEFICIARY: SC TESTER SRL

REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Key Area of Intervention 4.3
- Support the development
of micro-enterprises

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 240 micro-enterprises that generated over 1000 new jobs

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT: 198,253.38 €, of which 159,345.27 € grant

DESCRIPTION: Micro-enterprises of North-East Region developing through Regio

TITLE: Development and modernization of production activity at SC SIT TRADER PROD SRL by acquiring IT solutions, equipment and new technologies

BENEFICIARY: SC SIT TRADER PROD SRL

REGIO FINANCING SOURCE:
Key area of intervention 5.2 - Creation, development, modernization of the tourism infrastructure for sustainable valorization of natural resources and for increasing the quality of tourism services

OUTPUTS AT REGIONAL LEVEL: 25 upgraded accommodation and leisure units in the North-East Region awaits tourists

TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT: 10,880,983 €, of which 3,946,633.7 € grant

DESCRIPTION: Modern recreational infrastructure in Iasi awaits tourists

TITLE: The Ciric recreational area
BENEFICIARY: Iasi Municipality

Lessons learned

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- Good communication and increased expertise between MA and IBs = highest absorption performance among 2007-2013 OPs in Romania (69.2% funds reimbursed at the IB North-East level and 58.01% reimbursed funds at the MA level)
- High need for financing sources at regional level = high number of projects submitted covering all fields of intervention in Regio
- Smooth program implementation = good communication with potential applicants and beneficiaries, sustained evaluation, selection and contracting processes
- Correct technical and financial verification process = program procedures are observed and transferred to the beneficiaries in due time
- Development of administrative capacity of the applicants in working with large projects = increased capability to use public procurement rules and working with consulting companies

Lessons learned

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- The need to implement a pre selection mechanism to avoid submission of too many weak applications, for which are generated (preparation) costs (only 58.8% projects selected and 38.3% projects proposed for financing)
- Existence of fields of intervention with very high demand (ex. support for microenterprises, creation of business support infrastructures, rehabilitation of educational infrastructure, rehabilitation of patrimony)
- The need for wider consultations when establishing eligibility criteria to avoid weak or lack of interest for certain fields of interest (industrial sites rehabilitation)
- The need of implementing a correlation mechanism between Regio projects (especially urban development) and other OPs projects implemented simultaneous (ex TRANS and Environment)
- Need for increased capacity of project implementation units
- Weak capacity of constructors to respect requirements in terms of preparing correct documentations, observing deadlines and quality of the works
- The need to reinforce through special governmental policies the co financing capacity of the applicants

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